Are not with me esteem'd aboue thy life.
I would lose all, I sacrifize them all
Heere to this diuell, to deliuer you.
*Por.* Your wife would giue you little thanks for that
If she were by to heare you make the offer.
*Gra.* I haue a wife, who I protest I loue,
I would she were in heauen, so she could
Entreate some power to change this currish *Iew*,
*Ner.* Tis well you offer it behinde her backe,
The wish would make else an vnquiet house.
*Iew.* These be the christian husbands, I haue a daughter,
Would any of the stocke of *Barrabas*
Had bene her husband, rather then a Christian.
We trifle time, I pray thee pursue sentence.
*Por.* A pound of that same Merchants flesh is thine,
The Court awards it, and the law doth giue it.
*Iew.* Most rightfull Iudge.
*Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast,
The Law allowes it, and the Court awards it.
*Iew.* Most learned Iudge, a sentence, come prepare.
*Por.* Tarry a little, there is something else,
This bond doth giue thee here no iote of blood,
The words expresly are a pound of flesh:
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh,
But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
Are by the lawes of Venice, confiscate
Vnto the State of Venice.
*Gra.* O vpright Iudge,
Marke *Iew*, O learned Iudge.
*Shy.* Is that the Law?
*Por.* Thy selfe shalt see the Act:
For as thou vrgest iustice, be assur'd
Thou shalt haue iustice, more then thou desirest.
*Gra.* O learned Iudge, marke *Iew*, a learned Iudge.
*Iew.* I take this offer then, pay the bond thrice,





And let the Christi
*Bass.* Heere is th
*Por.* Soft, the Ie
He shall haue nothi
*Gra.* O Iew, an v
*Por.* Therefore p
Shed thou no bloo
But iust a pound of
Or lesse then a iust
As makes it light o
Or the diuision of t
Of one poore scrup
But in the estimatio
Thou dyest, and all
*Gra.* A second D
Now infidell I haue
*Por.* Why doth t
*Shy.* Giue me m
*Bass.* I haue it rea
*Por.* He hath ref
And shall haue mee
*Gra.* A Daniel sti
I thanke thee Iew fo
*Shy.* Shall I not h
*Por.* Thou shalt h
To be so taken at th
*Shy.* Why then t
Ile stay no longer he
*Por.* Tarry Iew,
The Law hath yet a
It is enacted in the l
If it be proued again
That by direct, or in
He seeke the life of
The party gainst the
Shall seize on halfe

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BRITIS